

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for detecting an approaching emergency/law enforcement vehicle from a secondary vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

at least one camera mounted on the secondary vehicle;

a display surface mounted inside an interior of the secondary vehicle for displaying video image data from the at least one camera;

at least one of a pan, tilt, and zoom motor operatively connected to the at least one camera for providing an enhanced view of an emergency/law enforcement vehicle displayed on the display surface; and

control means for controlling the at least one pan, tilt, and zoom motors to provide the enhanced view.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein all of the pan, tilt, and zoom motors are operatively connected to the at least one camera.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one camera comprises forward and rearward facing cameras, each of which are operatively connected to a pan, tilt and zoom motor, and each of which have a control means for controlling their respective pan, tilt, and zoom motors.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising

selection means for selecting the display of video image data from one of the forward and rearward facing cameras for display on the display surface.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein both the video image data from the forward and rearward facing cameras are displayed together on the display surface and wherein the selection means comprises a touch screen whereby touching the display from one of the forward or rearward facing cameras selects the corresponding video image data for display on the display surface.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control means comprises a touch screen whereby touching a portion of the display surface controls at least one of the pan, tilt, and zoom motors to provide an enhanced view of the portion touched.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control means comprises a speech recognition and command system for recognizing a spoken command by a user and for controlling at least one of the pan, tilt, and zoom motors accordingly.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting and tracking means for detecting and tracking an emergency/law enforcement vehicle displayed on an indicated portion of the display surface, said detecting and tracking means further functioning as the

control means for controlling at least one of the pan, zoom, and tilt motors; and

identification means for indicating the portion of the display surface which contains the emergency/law enforcement vehicle to be tracked.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the identification means comprises a touch screen whereby touching a portion of the display surface indicates the portion of the display which contains the emergency/law enforcement vehicle to be tracked.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

classification means for classifying vehicles in the displayed video image data and identifying those of the classified vehicles which are emergency/law enforcement vehicles; and

tracking means for tracking the identified emergency/law enforcement vehicle in the video image data, said tracking means further functioning as the control means for controlling at least one of the pan, zoom, and tilt motors.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for alerting a user of the secondary vehicle that at least one emergency/law enforcement vehicle has been identified in the video image data.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for alerting the user comprises an audible alarm operatively connected to one of the classification or tracking means.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for alerting the user comprises a visual alarm operatively connected to one of the classification or tracking means.

14. An apparatus for detecting an approaching emergency/law enforcement vehicle from a secondary vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

at least one camera mounted on the secondary vehicle;

a display surface mounted inside an interior of the secondary vehicle for displaying video image data from the at least one camera;

tracking means for tracking an identified emergency/law enforcement vehicle displayed on the display surface; and

identification means for indicating the emergency/law enforcement vehicle to be tracked.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the identification means comprises a touch screen whereby touching a portion of the display surface indicates the portion of the display which contains the emergency/law

enforcement vehicle to be tracked.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising at least one of a pan, tilt, and zoom motor operatively connected to the at least one camera for providing an enhanced view of an emergency/law enforcement vehicle displayed on the display surface, wherein the tracking means is operatively connected to at least one of the pan, zoom, and tilt motors for controlling the same.

17. An apparatus for detecting an approaching emergency/law enforcement vehicle from a secondary vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

at least one camera mounted on the secondary vehicle;

a display surface mounted inside an interior of the secondary vehicle for displaying video image data from the at least one camera;

classification means for classifying vehicles in the video image data and identifying those of the classified vehicles which are emergency/law enforcement vehicles; and

tracking means for tracking the identified emergency/law enforcement vehicle in the video image data.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising at least one of a pan, tilt, and zoom motor operatively connected to the at least one camera for

providing an enhanced view of an emergency/law enforcement vehicle displayed on the display surface, wherein the tracking means is operatively connected to at least one of the pan, zoom, and tilt motors for controlling the same.

19. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for alerting a user of the secondary vehicle that at least one emergency/law enforcement vehicle has been identified in the video image data.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the means for alerting the user comprises an audible alarm operatively connected to one of the classification or tracking means.

21. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the means for alerting the user comprises a visual alarm operatively connected to one of the classification or tracking means.